

## INTELLIGENCE REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

SUBJECT The 11th Technical Battalion  
in Horni Sucha

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. [Redacted] report concerning the 11th Technical Battalion located in Horni Sucha (N 49-48, E 18-30) near Karvina. The battalion is part of the 52nd Technical Group which is located in Orlava.
2. The report describes the organization of this unit, gives names and descriptions of leading personnel, and provides a description, with accompanying sketch, of the barracks area. The function of the battalion is to serve as a military brigade working as miners in the Klement Gottwald pit in Horni Sucha.

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Military

11th Technical Battalion, P.S. 51, HORNI SUCHA~~SECRET~~1. General data on the unit

- a) The 11th Technical Battalion, HORNI SUCHA, is part of the 52nd Technical Group, ORLOVA, the CO of which is Colonel VANCURA. The 52nd Technical Group is subordinate to the II. Military District, CO Lieutenant General TOWN.
- b) The Battalion numbers about 1,000 national servicemen.

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## 2.

- a) The Battalion consists of six Companies, organised as follows:

No. 1 Company - cover designation Company C, 180 to 200 men  
 No. 2 Company - " " " T, " " " "  
 No. 3 Company - " " " B, " " " "  
 No. 4 Company - " " " ? " " " "  
 No. 5 Company " " " A 60 men -  
     HQ Platoon, 30 men, including cooks, clerks, drivers,  
     repairs personnel, and:  
     Guard Platoon, also numbering 30.  
 No. 6 Company - cover designation not known; 180 to 200 men.

- b) Each Company, except No. 5, is divided into three Platoons of 60 to 70. The Coy CO is an officer, and his political 2 1/2 a regular NCO; only in exceptional cases is this function filled by an officer, since there are not enough of those with the Battalion.

3. Function of the Battalion

- a) The Battalion provides about 1,000 men to work in the Klement GOTTFRIED pit at HORNI SUCHA as a military brigade, working an eight-hour day in three shifts. The men are paid as brigade workers, 1,200 to 1,400 Kcs a month according to output, out of which they pay 650 Kcs a month to the military administration for their clothes, food, etc.
- b) The men assigned to the Technical Battalions are those who are not of suitable class origin or who have undergone some kind of political

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punishment. Since 1953, however, it has been asserted that there is no difference between this and other military units, as it too has ordinary infantry training, and since 1954, the amount of training has been steadily increased. In 1954, there was only one drill exercise a month; in 1955, the men had two to three hours' practical and theoretical infantry training. Considerable changes have taken place in the armament of the unit. Up to the winter of 1955, the Technical Battalions were armed with old German 98 N weapons, but at the start of 1956, distribution of the new semi-automatic model 52, 7.62 mm rifles began.

#### 4. Morale

- a) The morale of the Technical Battalion is rather low, since leave is almost non-existent and passes are not even given for compassionate reasons. In addition, the fact that all are compelled to work leads to the attitude of trying to avoid military training, with the assertion that they are brigandars, not soldiers.
- b) A check on the men's political opinions is kept by the NCO Platoon COs, and all those promoted are either communists or politically reliable. When the men are distributed in Platoons, five or six communists are picked for each Company, and their job is to keep a check on the others; later those are promoted to NCO (national service).
- c) It is usual for a unit of the Interior Guard to be located near the Technical Battalion; the Interior Guard consists of communist or politically reliable elements only; their national service lasts two years, as in other units, but their pay is 700 Kcs a month, not as in other units, 70 Kcs. Their duties are to guard military and factory installations and to intervene in the event of unrest. They are placed near Technical Battalion units to provide a counterpoise to these unreliable elements, should there be any disturbance.

#### 5. Personnilities

- a) CO of 11th Technical Battalion: Major EILLY, fmu, [redacted] 25X1

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- b) Political 2 i/c: Major GERGEL, Jozka, [redacted]

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/c).....

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- c) Officer in charge of physical training: Lieutenant BALOK, Jaroslav,

[redacted] 25X1

- d) Chief MO: Captain MUDr VAVROS, fmu [redacted]

- e) CO of No. 1 Company: Senior Lieutenant PAULINY, fmu [redacted]

- f) CO of No. 2 Company: Lieutenant PLATOS, fmu [redacted]

g)

Intelligence personnel

- h) Senior Lieutenant MAGRA, fmu [redacted]

- i) Lieutenant MATULA, fmu [redacted]

6. Location of Barracks (described without map)

The Barracks are on the West side of the HORNI SUCHA - KARVINA road, and consist of two groups of buildings, some old ones near the railway line to CESKY TESIN, and some new buildings North of the old ones, on the North side of the road and railway tracks to the GOTTWILD pit, which were originally intended for brigade workers' quarters. The old part is about 400 x 300 m, and the new group is L-shaped, about half the size of the former.

Layout (see sketch)

- 1) HQ and Staff, in a masonry ground-floor building 30 x 12 m, in the centre of the Barracks opposite the entrance.
- 2) Men's mess and kitchen, a masonry ground-floor building 70 x 20 m, at the corner of the KARVINA road and the road to the pit.
- 3) No. 2 Company quarters, a one-storeyed building 30 x 12 m, with a souterrain and containing 40 rooms, on the KARVINA - HORNI SUCHA road.
- 4) No. 4 Company quarters, in a fairly long building similar to No. (3), on the corner near the railway line to CESKY TESIN.
- 5) No. 6 Company quarters, in a similar one-storeyed building
- 6) Guard post, store for arms and ammunition, in a wooden hut, 40 x 11 m, near No.(1).

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- 7) No. 5 Company quarters, in two ground-floor masonry buildings, one, in this part of the Barracks, about 40 x 12 m.
- 8) Garage for [redacted] cars, a ground-floor masonry building 30 x 15 m. 25X1
- 9) Cinema, a masonry building raised above ground level, about 30 x 15 m.
- 10) Obstacle track
- Brigade workers' quarters, now used as Barracks
- 11) Second building used as quarters for No. 5 Company, a ground-floor masonry building 30 x 10 m, near the road to the pit.
- 12) No. 1 Company quarters, a masonry building about 30 x 12 m.
- 13) No. 3 Company quarters, a ground-floor building similar to No. 12.
- 14) Room for political instruction, and store for various materials, in a wooden building 60 x 10 m, extending in the direction of the pit.
- 15) Old auxiliary quarters now used as a camp for brigade workers
- 16) K.G. GOTTMALD pit canteen

